par with Indian companies. We had expect-d an exercise was on in the Government of India, in the different departments, incling the department headed by the Minister, including the Finance Ministry also, where too a tremendous exercise was on

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; I hope you will leave some time for the Minis ter to answer.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIHT SINGH: Yes. yes, there is plenty of time. One of the exercises was to try

categorise the Non -FERA compa- into a special category 'and thai lion has not come about The problem. as the hon. Minister kners and he knows it very well, because he has discussed it in various fora, is of the multinational ex-FERA companies. I would bke to know from the hon. Minuter what is going to be his attitude,

is the attitude of his department to the recommendations as he made to the Finance Ministry regarding ex-F£RA multinational companies? Are they going to come under some ambit or control or' arc they going to be lefe totally free to do what they like to profiteer, to take the money out of this country and to do what. they like. I would like* to know this

the hon. Minister.

SHRI . VENGAL RAO: The hon. Member, Mr. Vishvjit Singh is one of our CoEsultfitive Committee Members. Ha raised so many questions and *I* sent him answers in-writing^ He expressed his opinion in the Consultative Committee, a*nd* he is satisfied with my answers. It he still has any doubt, we will certainly satisfy him.

THE DEUPTY CHAIRMAN; Next question.

*106. *[The questioners {Shri T. R. Bala find Shri V, Gopalsamy) were absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 33—3S . infra.]

*107. *[The questioners (Shri Kapil Verma and Shri'V. Narayanasamy) were absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 36-37 infra]

*108. *[Tha questioner Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu) was absent. For answer* vide 37—42 infra]

"109. [T/ie questioners (Shri Ashwani Kumar and Shri Lal K. Advani) were absent. For answer, vide *col,* 45 infra]

110. *[The questioner (Shri Sukomal Sen) was absent. For answer,* vide *col..* 43-44 infra.]

111. *[The questioners (Shri M.A. Baby and Shri Minna! Chatterjee) were absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 44-45 *infra}.*

112. *[The questioners (Shri Chitta Basu) was absent, For answer,* vide *col.* 45 infra].

*H3. *[The questioner (Shri V. Nara-yanasamy) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 45-46 infra.].

Number of oil wells drilled in earner) basin

-II4. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister *rf* PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of oil wells drilled in the Cauvery basin;

* (b) what is the qu'antum of oil taken from those wells; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to start, an oil refinery in Tanjoro District for utilising the Cauvery Basin crude of'

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) I hiny two on-land and twenty oil-shore wells have been drilled in Can-very basin so far.

(b) Presently, about 36 tonnes of pit per day is being produced from, two wells through extended production test ing.

'(c) There is no such proposal at present.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARU-NACHALAM: It has been reported in the press that after the drilling of new wells in the Cauvery Basin, adequate quantity of petroleum has been found to estab-

fish an oil refinery in Thanjavur district. I want to know whether the Government will consider it and come forward to start an oil refinery instead of sending oil available in Cauvery Basin to Madras, thereby causing additional expenses to the Government.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: We are trying to first explore the oil and develop oilfields, and only then we can consider the possibility of setting up a refinery. Very little quantity is being, exploited just now and that is being refined in Madras. But if oil presence is established and the oil wells 'are developed, we will think about

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: I want to know whether tie Government has taken further steps to . drill new oil wells in the Cauvery Basin in order to tap the available potentiality in that area.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: In the Canvery Basin we are drilling two new wells and in the off-shore also we are drilling two wells. Besides, we are having a programme with Soviet assistance costing about Rs. 364 crores. The ONGC also has got another programme for developing onshore and off-shore sources of oil and gas, and we feel that there is a big possibility of making new strides. Only then the question of setting up an oil refinery comes.

' SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Would the hon. Minister tell us whether in view of the large finds of gas, he is considering any projects for running the vehicles directly on gas, and not petrol, and will that be cheaper?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT We are experimenting with it. A few vehicles are being tried to be run on gas, and if that succeeds, we will do it.

SHRI VISHVJIT. PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Madam, the hon. Minister has referred to off-shore exploration and onshore exploration, or on-land explorations. I would like to know from tha run.
Minister—because it relates to on-land exploration—why in the last few years we have ignored on-shore exploration? lt is because of that only that we are facing the problem today. I would like no know from the hon. Minister as to what is the quantum of investment, year by year, o« on-land exploration 'anti off-shoro exploration, because that will put us into the correct perspective.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT; We are nat neglecting either off-shore or on-shore. We have indicated the quantum of investment, the cost of the programme which we are taking up with the Soviet assistance in this basin. If you want for other basins....

SHRI VISHVJIT PR1THVIUT SINGH: What is the comparison belweno off-shore and on-land? How much you ate spending?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: In this basin?

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I am talking about all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; Question Hour is over.